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sented to him; and in despair if not permitted. Lacenaire himself mocked at the infatuation he excited. They come to me, he said, "as they would ask a ticket from M. Geoffrey Saint-Hilaire to see the elephant's den." But the criminal is simply a feeble or distorted person, who has chanced, most often from lack of human help, to fall out of the social ranks. It is unreasonable and inhuman for a whole nation to become excited over him. Only education and a rational knowledge of criminality can change this sort of craze. As is well known, crime has been on the increase during the whole of the present century. In France, says Ellis, it has risen several hundred per cent.; so also for several kinds of serious crime in many parts of Germany; in Spain the number of imprisonments for life nearly doubled between 1870 and 1883; in the United States the criminal population has increased since the war relatively to the population, one third. Although certain factors may enter in to modify this real increase somewhat, yet there is a general agreement as to the fact of increase. Great Britain alone appears to be an exception; but there is a real increase in proportion to the population, in the more serious kinds of crime. Crimes of passion are rarer in the Anglo-Saxon race in England, Scotland and America than anywhere else. The decrease is in minor offences, and is due in large measure, no doubt, to reasons connected with the police.

Criminality, like insanity, waits upon civilization. Among primitive races insanity is rare; true criminality is also. Conservatism and the rigid cult of custom are as much a barrier to crime as they are to progressional civilization. When there is stress and change in social surroundings, ill-balanced natures become more frequent, and the anti-social instincts are called out more than in stagnant society. Irish criminality is far greater in England than at home. While the Americans are more criminal than the English, the criminality of the English-born in the United States is more than double that of native American whites. Thus criminality, like insanity, flourishes among immigrants, and our civilization is bringing us into the position of immigrants. But there is no reason for discouragement, for social facts, of which criminality is one, are most under our control. The problem is not isolated. It is a waste of time to talk about methods of improving criminals so long as life outside of prison makes life inside of prison a welcome shelter. So long as we foster the growth of the reckless classes we foster the growth of criminality. Thus it is that crime is *par excellence*, a sociological question.

B.—CHARITOLOGICAL.

The relation between crime, alcoholism and pauperism is so intimate—indeed an unmixed case of any one of them is the exception—that the consideration of one involves all.

De l'Assistance, compte rendu officiel (in extenso) du congrès international tenu à Paris en 1889. 2 vols, pp. 560 and 774.

The international congress of public relief, of which this is the report, was held under the patronage of the French government at Paris from July 28 to August 4, 1889. The congress favored the guaranteeing of public relief by law to the temporarily indigent; the provision of medical attendance so far as practicable by the lowest governmental division to which the patient belongs, commune, parish, etc.; the equalization of such burdens among the governmental divisions, so that the richer communes, etc., shall help the poorer, under the general supervision of the state. Destitute children should be placed in suitable families, and the pay of those having charge of them should not be too small. The aid of disinterested women living near where the children are placed should be engaged in looking after them. Legal guardianship of children

morally abandoned is to be secured, and in their subsequent treatment some regard is to be had to the circumstances in which they are found. Places are to be provided for the care and instruction of poor children during the working hours of their parents, and special schools for those unsuited for the ordinary schools. Children that cannot be rescued by the family method should be placed in institutions where they may receive special training.

The second volume contains the reports of the four sub-sections of the congress: 1, On public relief in general; 2, On charities for children; 3, On hospitals and home relief; 4, On the insane, the poor house, etc. In Section 1 it was contended that obligatory public assistance must be justified, efficacious, preventive, and neutral in religion. In Section 2 the benefits of dispensaries to children and the public were shown, and an administrative plan for the supervision of guardianship was developed. Section 3 resolved in favor of professionally trained nurses in hospitals and better treatment of them with a view to improving the *personnel* of this branch, also schools for their training. In Section 4 Dr. Bourneville supported the establishment, by the larger governmental divisions, of institutions for defective children. Dr. Kéramel advocated provisional release of certain of the insane, under asylum supervision, for the mutual benefit of themselves and the asylums. At the suggestion of Dr. Magnan the following resolutions were voted: That the asylum should be considered as an instrument of cure and treatment; that aside from the asylum, family care and agricultural colonies should be developed as much as possible, to avoid the embarrassment of the asylums. (3). That the attending physician should indicate the classes of patients, who are in a state to receive family care, and that he should have the oversight of the agricultural colonies. At the end of the second volume is a very complete and methodical bibliography of over 300 pages on public and private assistance in France and other countries.

Die ländliche Armenpflege und ihre Reform. Verhandlungen des deutschen Vereins für Armenpflege und Wohlthätigkeit, von F. Frhr. von Reitzenstein. Freiburg, i. B., 1887. pp. 405.

The German Society for Poor Relief and Charity, has developed in detail a plan for rural poor relief. Seyffardt-Crefeld in a report on the organization of such poor relief makes the following points: 1, Legal establishment of adequate charity societies; 2, Application in the country of the principles of relief approved by experience in the city; 3, A good system of poor relief is one, which, instead of paying as cheaply as possible for temporary or continued need, strives to educate the poor to self-help, and to prevent their continued need of help; 4, The best system is the individual one, which with the co-operation of the state, guarantees a thorough treatment of every case. The conclusions of the congress as a whole have to do with matters of administration, the general aim of which seems to be to turn over to the larger communal associations those functions which call for large expenditure and technical information and to reserve for those associations which stand closer to the people needing help those functions which are individual and variable in their nature, together with sufficient financial interest to secure hearty co-operation. The larger governmental divisions can also best care for the sick and defective that are treated in institutions, and for work-houses.

Prosperity or Pauperism, edited by the EARL of MEATH, LORD BRABAZON. London, 1888. pp. 342.

Although one of the titles of this book is pauperism, a reader will find little about this subject, but a great deal concerning those reforms